

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, May 11, 1844,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, May 11, 1844.

Confidential.

My dear Blair, your letter of the 2nd instant has reached me this evening, my letter of this morning, will give you my crude ideas on the subject of Texas. Mr. Tyler had no prospect of the votes of the south and west—the whole democracy was united on Mr. V. Buren as strong as the Rocky mountains, until his illfated letter was published. The whole democracy expected him (and so did I) as well as Col. Benton to be in favor of immediate annexation. It must have been well known the depressed situation of Texas and that necessity would compell her to apply to some power for aid, that she preferred the United States. 0310 286 She would not become subject to the tyranny of Mexico—she had twice applied to the United states, was rejected, and it was only her depression situation, her love for this union that conquered her pride, and induced her a third time to make a tender of herself to this union—and let me assure you, if her application is now rejected, Texas is lost to this union forever, and must become a province of England from dire necessity.

Was This a time to view this great national Subject, with the consideration, What Individual, politically, was to get the credit of it. I say to you, emfatically, if Mr. V. Buren had come out in favour of annexation he would have been elected almost by acclamation, and Tyler nor no one else would have been thought of by the democracy, and two thirds of

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the whiggs. This to the south and west is a subject of vital importance. The safety of the great interests of the south and west, and safety of the union are involved. It is believed here and south and west that it is a subject that involves the vital interest and safety of the Republic, and knowing the pressure upon Texas, the secrete intrigue of England to get possession of it, That speedy action is necessary for the safety of the Republic. The south and west go upon the principle, that the safety of the Republic is the supreme law, and speedy annexation is the only way to secure it before it is placed within the Grasp of England where we will have to shed oceans of blood and millions of money to obtain what is now offered to us in peace and which we have a perfect right to receive without being a cause of war with any nation.

Strange infatuation to say; “when we can get the consent of Mexico then we are for annexation”. Did we wait for Spains consent before we applied to Mexico for a treaty of retrocession of Texas. How absurd the ground taken and has given the enemies of V.Buren and Benton room to charge on them political views for delay. You know my friendship for both, and I have shed tears of regret over both their letters. Penn jnr. will now with great force attack him, Benton. The path was a clear one. Texas is viewed as absolutely necessary for the defence of Neworleans and keep foreign influence from tampering with our Indians, and slaves in war, and in peace. we cannot bear that Great Britain should have a Canedy on our west as she has on the north. Then the result—common sense says, political matters out of the question, That Texas has presented to us the important key to our future safety—take and lock the door against all danger of foreign influence, and lock that important key secure in our iron safe, and that without delay for delay is dangerous.

I fear from what I learn to day, from Alabama, Missouri, Ky. etc etc that it will be impossible to unite now the Democracy upon Mr. V.B. the cry now is, no man who will not pledge himself for speedy annexation, and enquiring for some good democrat in the north and east to put up with Col. Poke. can Wright be brought out and will he pledge himself, will Woodbury, or Buchannan. These are enquiries, and my heart bleeds to hear them but

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the die is cast I fear. How unfortunate when the election of V.B. was certain, if it had not been for his unfortunate 0311 287 letter a proper conclusion would have saved him. Cass has been named, has but few friends, and Tyler and Calhoun has less unless indeed the present state of things for the want of a pledged man in favour of Texas, his choice might be forced upon the democracy from necessity but no delegate that I know of would select him now. There will be no one named here, it will be left open for the Baltimore convention etc etc. . . . .

I am quite sick really, and have been ever since I read V.B. letter—it was a fatal letter to our hopes politically. May god bless you and your whole Houshold is the prayers of me and mine—all congratulate you on your returning health and the skill of that good Doctor Harris—may you long live, but you now have an uphill business to sustain my friend Mr. VanBuren and restore him to the confidence of the south and west. How I mourn ove[r] this fatal letter to his prospects. yr. friend

P.S. It is now late at night, I fear you will not be able to read this scrall. I have read Mr. Calhouns letter to Packenham, in which he has displayed a great weakness and folly to introduce into matter that did not belong to the subject and well calculated to arouse the Eastern states against the annexation of Texas. The power of the states over slavery was not necessary by him then to have been brought into view. How many men of talents want good common sense.

Have no fears of my being a deserter from V.B. and a supporter of Tylers. Had Mr. VanBuren coucluded his letter as I stated to you, which his good common sense I thought ought to have suggested to him, he was as sure to have been elected as he lived. I must refer you to Major A. J. Donelson for all the facts and feelings in this case—he is as well as thousand of others in great distress about V.B. but from the great excitement of the people, there dose not present a single avenue by which V.B. can be restored to the confidence of the people. Hereafter I will confidentially say more to you on this subject. some good democrat must be selected with Polk and the Democrats will rally on him and

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Polk. god bless you adieu. I repeat Texas must now be admitted or she is lost to us, until regained at the Point of the Bayonet—I have from the highest source under confidence. There must be no delay in this—delays are dangerous.